

Remarks

The Applicants have amended the Specification to place it into better form for allowance.

The Applicants have amended and cancelled a number of the claims as set forth below. First, Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 6. Claim 6 has accordingly been cancelled. However, Claim 1 has further been amended with respect to the subject matter of Claim 6 to clarify R², R⁹ and R¹⁵. Claims 7-9 have been amended to account for the cancellation of Claim 6.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 and to recite that the copolymer is present in an amount of 50 wt% or more. That additional language may be found in original Claim 36.

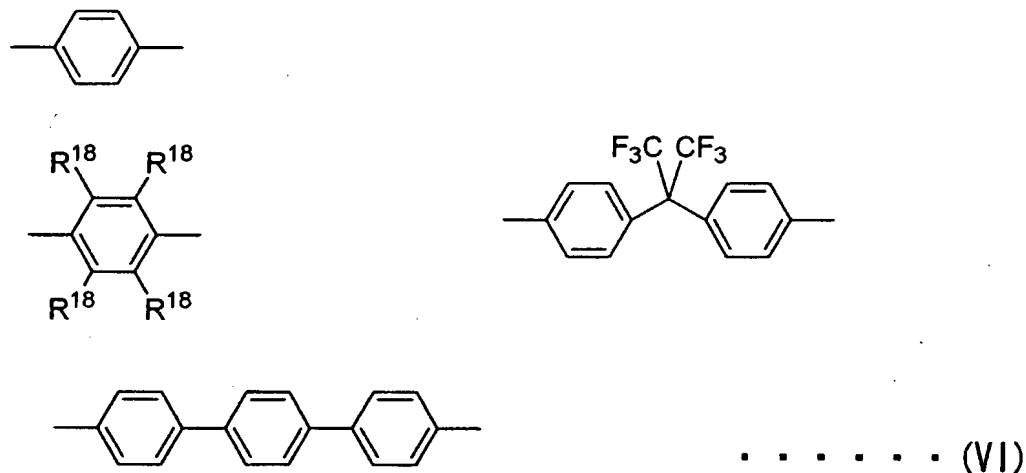
Claims 23-35 have been cancelled. Claim 36 has been amended to depend from Claim 1. Claim 37 has been cancelled.

Claim 38 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 or Claim 10. Claims 47-55 have been cancelled. The cancellations have been made without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter therein. The Applicants specifically reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject of those cancelled claims.

Claims 1-4, 10 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Nemoto. The Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot in view of the inclusion of Claim 6 into Claim 1 and in view of the amendment of Claim 10 to depend from Claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-39, 41, 42, 47, 48, 50 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Hitoshi. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to Claims 6, 23-35, 37, 47, 48, 50 and 51 in view of their respective cancellations. The Applicants respectfully submit that Hitoshi is inapplicable to the remaining claims in this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1 with respect to structure 3 (mentioned as structure 3 in Claim 6 in the rejection) is actually quite different from the formulae III and IV of Hitoshi. In that regard, the Applicants' R¹⁰ moiety is a group containing Si, a group containing P, a group containing S or a halogenated hydrocarbon group and the Applicants' R¹⁵ moiety is any of the structures set forth below.



where R¹⁸: independently respectively, H, D (deuterium), halogen, aromatic group, hydrocarbon having a carbon number of 1 to 5, or halogenated hydrocarbon having a carbon number of 1 to 5.

The Applicants respectfully submit that formulas III and IV of Hitoshi fail to disclose such claimed structure. The Applicants also respectfully submit that there is no other similar structure in Hitoshi. Withdrawal of Hitoshi is accordingly respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-39, 41, 43, 47, 48, 50 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Harris. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to Claims 6, 23-35, 37, 47, 48, 50 and 51 that were previously cancelled with respect to Hitoshi. The Applicants respectfully submit that Harris is inapplicable to the remainder of those rejected claims for the reasons set forth below.

Harris employs biphenyl dicarboxylic chloride. Inclusion of that structure in the compositions of Harris results in a poor mechanical strength. Also, the raw materials are rather expensive. The Applicants have clarified the differences between the subject matter of the above-mentioned rejected claims with respect to Harris by removing biphenyl groups in conjunction with the Applicants' R², R⁹ and R¹⁵ moieties. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Harris is inapplicable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 10-15, 22-23, 25-28, 35-39 and 47-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Yamaoka. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claims 6, 23, 25-28, 35, 37, and 47-48 over Yamaoka. The Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims are also not anticipated by Yamaoka. The reason for this is similar to the reasons set forth above with respect to Harris. In particular, Yamaoka uses biphenyl dicarboxylic chloride. The above-mentioned rejected claims do not include biphenyl groups with respect R², R⁹ and R¹⁵. Withdrawal of the rejection based on Yamaoka is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 10-15, 22-23, 25-28, 35-39, and 47-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Murakami. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claims 6, 23, 25-28, 35, 37, and 47-48. The Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims are not anticipated by Murakami.

Murakami, like Yamaoka and Harris, discloses biphenyl dicarboxylic chloride. The above-mentioned rejected claims do not include biphenyl groups with respect to R², R⁹ and R¹⁵. Thus, Murakami is inapplicable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 9, 11-14, 20-24, 27-35, 37 and 47-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Handa. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claims 6, 23-24, 27-35, 37 and 47-48. The Applicants respectfully submit that Handa is

inapplicable to the remaining claims for the reasons set forth below.

Handa employs para-phenylenediamine and 3,4-diamino-diphenyl ether as raw materials. When these raw materials are used to synthesize a polymer, the light transmission is relatively poor because the obtained polymer is colored and opaque. In any event, the light transmission is far outside of the claimed range. The Applicants respectfully submit that Handa is inapplicable for that reason alone.

However, the Applicants' R¹⁰ does not include an ether linkage which is present in the Handa compositions. Therefore, Handa does not anticipate the above-mentioned remaining rejected claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9 and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Elfert. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claims 6 and 23. The Applicants respectfully submit that Elfert is nonetheless inapplicable to the remaining claims for the reasons set forth below.

Elfert is directed to meta-oriented polyamides. This is in sharp contrast to the above-mentioned rejected claims which are directed to para-oriented polyamides. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that Elfert is inapplicable to those rejected claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-7, 9, 14 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Tsukuda. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claims 6 and 27. The Applicants respectfully submit that Tsukuda is inapplicable to the remaining rejected claims.

Tsukuda discloses the use of 2-chloro-1,4-phenylenediamine as the raw material. That component is colored. It is not transparent. Thus, the polymer obtained by using that raw material is

inherently colored and the light transmission does not satisfy the claimed range of light transmission. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Tsukuda is inapplicable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 22, 23, 35, 37, 47, 45, 54, 40, 49 and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the combination of Vargo with Harris. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to cancelled Claims 6, 23, 35, 37, 47, 45, 49, 53 and 54. The Applicants respectfully submit that the hypothetical combination is inapplicable to remaining Claims 22 and 40. The Applicants have already established that Harris is inapplicable to Claim 1 as set forth above. Hypothetically combining Vargo with Harris does nothing to cure the above-mentioned deficiencies of Harris. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Vargo with Harris would still not result in the Applicants' subject matter as recited in Claims 22 and 40. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 47, 52 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the combination of Hawa with Harris. The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is now moot with respect to all of these claims inasmuch as they have been cancelled. In any event, the Applicants respectfully submit that hypothetically combining Hawa with Harris would still fail to result in a composition as recited in Claim 1 (now including the subject matter of Claim 6) for the reasons set forth above with respect to Harris taken individually. Withdrawal of the rejection is accordingly respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TDC' with a stylized flourish.

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